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P 180907Z MAR 09
FM AMEMBASSY HANOI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9354
INFO RUEHHM/AMCONSUL HO CHI MINH PRIORITY 5697
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 0279

C O N F I D E N T I A L HANOI 000253

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/18/2019
TAGS: PREL MOPS PBTS GG RS VM
SUBJECT: NO CHANGE IN VIETNAM'S POLICY TOWARD ABKHAZIA AND
SOUTH OSSETIA

REF: STATE 24186

Classified By: PolCouns Brian Aggeler. Reasons 1.4 (b/d)

(C) In a March 18 meeting with MFA officials responsible for UN Security Council matters, Deputy PolCouns delivered reftel points reiterating U.S. objections to Russia's recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, as well as plans to establish bases in the breakaway regions. Emphasizing that besides Russia, only one nation, Nicaragua, maintains diplomatic relations with either South Ossetia or Abkhazia, DPolCouns urged Vietnam not to do anything, officially or unofficially, that would imply recognition. In response, MFA IO Officer To Anh Toan said that Vietnam's policy had not changed -- Vietnam does not recognize South Ossetia and Abkhazia -- but promised to relay the substance of the demarche to his superiors.

PALMER